

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

04/20/2005

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of a revision of an information collection received on 03/03/2005.

TITLE: Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0202

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2007

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	6,210,270	27,097	1,456
New	6,429,834	27,392	1,527
Difference	219,564	295	71
Program Change		295	71
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Amendment 2 to the Northeast Region Monkfish Fishery Management Plan
and Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form
Revision to the Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0202

Introduction

This submission requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form required for permitting.

The proposed measures under Amendment 2 contain the following provisions requiring either new or revised information collection requirements: (1) A new limited access monkfish permit for vessels fishing south of 38°20 N. latitude; (2) a new permit category and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements for vessels participating in an Offshore SFMA Fishery Program; (3) a vessel baseline correction program for limited access monkfish vessels; and (4) the addition of monkfish vessels to the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area Exemption Program currently in effect for Northeast multispecies vessels. This information request creates a slight increase in the annual budget for the Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms (OMB Control No. 0648-0202) information collection.

Inclusion of the Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form will not result in an increase in the annual budget for OMB Control No. 0648-0202 as the number of respondents will not change; the form is filled out as part of the Atlantic scallop permit initial or renewal application package.

Other Information Collections Included but Unaffected by Amendment 2

The requirements under Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan include information collected under the Northeast Region Logbook Family of Forms (OMB Control No. 0648-0212). However, these requirements do not increase the budget for this collection as most of these vessels are already subject to this requirement and the current budget for this collection sufficiently covers this rule.

The New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils are proposing two measures for facilitating and streamlining cooperative research programs under the FMP. One program consists of a DAS (Days at Sea) set-aside whereby a pool of 500 DAS would be set aside from the total monkfish DAS available to limited access monkfish vessels, excluding carryover DAS. On an annual basis, the Councils would establish research priorities and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for monkfish research/surveys to be conducted under the DAS set-aside. Researchers could then submit a research proposal in response to the RFP using the existing NOAA Grant application process. The forms included in the NOAA Grant application, Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL are already approved under OMB control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046, respectively. The required certification forms, CD-511 and CD-512, are exempt from PRA requirements. The DAS set-aside program proposed in Amendment 2 would not involve a new collection or increase the current information collection budget, for the previously approved collections.

The other cooperative research program being considered is a DAS exemption program. The intent of the Councils is for this program to be utilized in conjunction with the DAS set-aside program. Under this program, the DAS set-aside under the previous program that are not distributed to vessels in response to the RFP would be reserved for issuing monkfish DAS exemptions to vessels conducting monkfish research activities. For example, if 300 of the 500 monkfish DAS set aside as part of the DAS set-aside program are distributed as a result of the RFP, there would be 200 DAS available for issuing exemptions. In order to qualify for a DAS exemption under this program, a vessel owner and/or principal investigator would submit an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application to NOAA Fisheries and include a request for a monkfish DAS exemption. If there are exempted DAS available, NOAA Fisheries may approve the request without requiring the applicant to conduct additional environmental analysis. However, if the DAS exemption request exceeds the amount available, the applicant would be required to conduct additional environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for NOAA Fisheries to make a determination on the exemption request. The EFP application has been approved under OMB control number 0648-0309. The proposed DAS exemption program would not involve a new collection or an increase of the collection budget for the previously approved collection.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has responsibility for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources off the coast of the United States. The majority of this responsibility has been delegated to the Regional Fishery Management Councils and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) NOAA Fisheries.

The monkfish fishery is jointly managed by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils). The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) approved Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP on September 15, 2004, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) approved Amendment 2 on October 6, 2004. The primary goals of this amendment are to address deficiencies in meeting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requirements related to essential fish habitat (EFH) as identified in the Court Decision for AOC v. Daley, to address a number of issues that arose out of the implementation of the original FMP, and to update the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the FMP that was originally prepared in 1998.

Offshore SFMA Fishery Program – Permit Category and VMS Reporting Requirements

One of the issues raised in the public scoping process for Amendment 2 was the elimination of the offshore monkfish fishery in the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) resulting from NOAA Fisheries' disapproval of the running clock provision contained in the original FMP. The Council's original FMP proposal would have allowed vessel to run their DAS clock upon returning to port to account for any trip limit overages. Without the running clock provision, offshore vessel owners stated that they could no longer profitably fish for monkfish due to the restrictive monkfish trip limits for vessels fishing in the SFMA, and the requirement that limited

access monkfish vessels with a limited access multispecies permit use a multispecies DAS for every monkfish DAS used.

Owners of vessels that intend to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program would be required to declare their intent to participate in the program when applying for their vessel's annual fishery permit. To declare their intent to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program, vessel owners would request the monkfish permit category (Category F) that corresponds to vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program on their vessel's annual fishery permit renewal application. Thus, the existing vessel permit applications (initial and renewal) approved under OMB Control No. 06448-0202 would be modified to include the new monkfish permit category for the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program. The purpose of this annual permit declaration requirement is to enable NOAA Fisheries to identify the vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program so that the requirements of the program can be properly enforced. Furthermore, vessels that participate in this program would have their annual monkfish DAS allocations adjusted accordingly to correspond to a fixed trip limit of 1,600 lb of monkfish tails per DAS. The DAS allocation would be calculated as the product of applying a trip limit ratio (the trip limit applicable to non-participating vessels in that permit category in the SFMA divided by 1,600 lb). Vessels not participating in the program are allocated up to 40 monkfish DAS annually, with variable annual trip limits based on a vessel monkfish permit category. For example, during the 2004 fishing year, Category A and C vessels have a trip limit of 550 lb of monkfish tails per DAS, and Category B and D vessels have a trip limit of 450 lb of monkfish tails per DAS.

In addition to the annual permit declaration requirement, vessels that participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program would be required to have a VMS unit in operation during the entire Offshore SFMA Fishery Program season, October 1 – April 30. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that participating vessels comply with regulations that restrict fishing under a monkfish DAS to the designated Offshore SFMA Fishery Program Area during the specified season.

Vessels required to obtain a VMS unit in order to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program would be able to power down the VMS unit outside of the proposed season for this program (May 1 – September 30) for a minimum of 30 days provided the vessel obtains a valid exemption letter, and complies with the conditions and requirements of the exemption letter, which includes not participating in any fisheries during the time period of the exemption. The vessel owner would be required to retain this exemption letter on board the vessel for the duration of the exemption. This provision is intended to reduce the operational costs of the VMS during periods when a vessel is not participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program. Vessels would be required to provide vessel identification information, specify the location of the vessel for the duration of the exemption, and indicate the exemption period requested through a written request to the Regional Administrator (RA). The vessel owner may not power down the VMS unit until the letter of exemption has been received. This notification is necessary to ensure proper VMS operation for those required to use VMS in order to maintain compliance with the provisions of the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program. The vessel owner may also request to extend the time period for which the exemption was granted as long as the time period does not overlap with the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program season.

Limited Access Program for Vessels fishing South of 38°20 N. Latitude

Another issue raised during the public scoping process for Amendment 2 was the exclusion of a small group of vessels located in Virginia and North Carolina from the Federal monkfish fishery during the development of the limited entry program contained in the original FMP. During the development of the Monkfish FMP, a fishery for monkfish developed south of the Virginia/North Carolina border. A small number of vessels began participating in this fishery shortly after the publication of the monkfish limited access permit control date on February 27, 1995 (60 FR 10574). Because these vessels did not possess other Federal northeast fishery permits at the time, they did not receive timely notices and other information concerning the limited access proposals contained in the Monkfish FMP. Furthermore, the southern boundary for the monkfish management unit that was initially proposed was the Virginia/North Carolina border. Although the southern boundary of the monkfish management unit was twice modified prior to the public hearings for the Monkfish FMP, the public hearing document for the FMP described the monkfish management unit as terminating at the Virginia/North Carolina border. Thus, the public hearing document led those vessels fishing south of the Virginia/North Carolina border to believe they would not be impacted by the limited access proposals being considered in the FMP. However, the final boundary of the monkfish management unit was extended to North Carolina/South Carolina border, thereby causing those vessels fishing south of the Virginia/North Carolina border to be subject to the limited access program established in the FMP.

The proposed action being considered in Amendment 2 would establish a special limited access permit that is based on the characteristics of the southernmost component of the monkfish fishery, while not opening the entire monkfish fishery to new participants. The program was initially intended for vessels fishing exclusively south of 38° N. latitude. However, during the development of alternatives for the proposed limited entry program, NOAA Fisheries implemented sea turtle protection measures that close the primary fishing areas to large-mesh gillnet gear during the times when monkfish are present in these areas. In response, the Councils proposed to extend the area accessible to vessels that qualify for the new limited access permit from 38°00' N. latitude to 38°20' N. latitude in order to provide these vessels with the opportunity to target monkfish during the peak season outside of the area where closures to protect sea turtles are in effect.

The existing vessel permit applications (initial and renewal) approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0202 would be modified to include two new limited access permit categories. The new monkfish Category G permit would correspond to the existing Category A and C permits (those that had the higher landings qualification criteria of 50,000 lb of monkfish tails), and the new monkfish Category H permit would correspond to the existing Category B and D permits (those with the lower landings qualification criteria of 7,500 lb of monkfish tails). Further, vessels qualifying for these limited access permits would be subject to the same DAS notification, gillnet tagging, vessel trip report, operator permit, and vessel replacement/upgrade/history retention requirements of other limited access monkfish vessels.

In order to qualify for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed action, vessels would have to submit an application form and provide landings records proving the vessel meets the landings qualification requirements for the permit. To qualify for a such limited access monkfish permit, a vessel would have to have landed 50,000 lb of monkfish tails for a Category G permit, or 7,500 lb of monkfish tails for a Category H permit, in the area south of 38°N. latitude during

the March 15 – June 15 time period over the four years prior to June 15, 1998. All applications for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed action must be received by April 30, 2006. Vessels that apply for this limited access permit, but are denied, may appeal the denial of the permit within 30 days of the notice of the denial. Any such appeal shall be made in writing, with the only grounds for appeal being that the RA erred in concluding that the vessel did not meet the qualification criteria.

Requests to Change Limited Access Monkfish Vessel Baselines

Under existing regulations, some limited access monkfish vessels have two sets of vessel upgrade baseline specifications as a result of modification or replacement between the time the vessel received its first Federal limited access fishery permit and the time it received its limited access monkfish permit. This ‘dual baseline’ issue was raised during the development of Amendment 2 since it greatly impacts owners of vessels that replaced their original vessel with a smaller vessel, resulting in smaller baseline specifications for the monkfish permit than the baseline specifications of the vessel first issued the Federal limited access permit. To address this issue, the Councils are proposing to set a limited access monkfish vessel’s baseline specifications for length overall, net tonnage, gross tonnage, and horsepower at those corresponding to the vessel holding the first Federal limited access permit. However, a change in a limited access monkfish vessel’s baseline specifications will not be automatic. Vessel owners must request such a change in writing, and the request must be made on or before April 30, 2006, or within one year of the effective date of Amendment 2 (whichever is the latter). This is only a one-time request.

The purpose of requiring vessel owners to request the baseline specification change is due to vessels that are in the reverse situation, where limited access monkfish baseline specifications are greater than the baseline specifications of the vessel holding the first Federal limited access permit. Furthermore, members of the Monkfish Oversight Committee (Committee) expressed concern over different methods for calculating a vessel’s tonnage over the years, which has resulted in some vessels having a larger baseline tonnage for the limited access monkfish permit. In response to these concerns, the Committee recommended a provision that allows a baseline specification change only at the owner’s request. Furthermore, in order to minimize the administrative burden of this measure, the Committee recommended giving vessel owners one year to request the change.

NAFO Regulatory Area Exemption

This proposed action would enable vessels to fish for monkfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area while being exempt from FMP regulations designed to manage the domestic monkfish fishery. Vessels wishing to fish for monkfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area under this exemption would be required to possess a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance permit, as specified under the regulations at 50 CFR 300, and a letter of authorization (LOA) from the RA. The LOA is requested by a telephone call to the permit office. There is no form to submit. In addition, vessels participating this exemption must fish exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area for the duration of the trip, stow all gear in accordance with applicable methods while transiting the EEZ, and the vessel operator must comply with the High Seas Fishing Compliance permit and all NAFO conservation and enforcement measures while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

The regulations at 50 CFR 300 require all vessels fishing on the High Seas (the area outside the exclusive economic zone (EEZ)) to obtain a High Seas Fishing Compliance permit. Therefore, the only new reporting requirement resulting from the proposed management measure is for vessels to obtain a letter of authorization from the RA. The purpose of this reporting requirement is to identify the vessels participating in this exemption program to ensure compliance with the provisions of the exemption, and consistency with the purpose of the exemption.

Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form

The proposed action is needed to ensure that no person applying for a limited access Atlantic scallop permit owns greater than 5 percent interest in any other limited access Atlantic scallop vessel.

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.4 (m) specify that for any vessel acquired after March 1, 1994, a vessel owner is not eligible to be issued a limited access scallop permit for the vessel if the issuance of the permit will result in the vessel owner, or in any other person who is a shareholder or partner of the vessel owner, having an ownership interest in limited access scallop vessels in excess of 5 percent of the number of all limited access scallop vessels at the time of permit application.

Having an ownership interest includes, but is not limited to, persons who are shareholders in a vessel owned by a corporation, who are partners (general or limited) to a vessel owner, or who, in any way, partly own a vessel.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The annual permit declaration requirement for limited access monkfish vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program will be used, on a daily basis, to identify the vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program to ensure compliance with the provisions with the program, including VMS installation and operation. Vessel permit information is available to the public via the web site for the Northeast Regional Office at www.nero.noaa.gov, and is also available upon request. In most cases, vessel permit information is provided in aggregate form. However, there are cases, such as for law enforcement or mailings, that individual permit information is required. The individual vessel information used for mailings that is derived from the vessel permit application provides NOAA Fisheries with the assurance of reaching all affected constituents with notices of fishery closures, regulatory changes, and other important information. Thus, this information is used frequently; at least once a month.

As stated under response #1, all vessels that participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program will be required to have an operational VMS unit on board the vessel during the entire season, October 1 – April 30. The vessel position information obtained from the VMS will be used on a daily basis to ensure that participating vessels are complying with area and season requirements while fishing under a monkfish DAS. Furthermore, the monkfish DAS effort information

obtained through the VMS unit is used occasionally, a couple times a year, for a variety of analyses conducted by NOAA Fisheries and the Councils. Vessel effort and position information obtained through the VMS is considered confidential. Thus, if VMS information is disseminated to the public, it is only provided in aggregate form.

All vessels required to possess an operational VMS unit on board must complete a form supplied by NOAA Fisheries verifying that a VMS unit has been installed on the vessel and is operational. The form requests information regarding vessel name, Federal permit number, vessel documentation or state registration number, installing dealer information (name, address, and telephone number), date of installation, serial number of unit, and e-mail address of vessel. The form also requests responses to questions concerning whether or not the unit is operational, if the operating instructions have been provided to the owner, and if the vessel owner has been trained on the use of the VMS unit by the vendor. Once the form has been signed, the vessel owner or authorized representative signs and dates the form, and returns it to the address listed on the form. The information collected on this form will be used by NOAA Fisheries, on a weekly to monthly basis, to ensure that any vessel participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program has a VMS unit on board, and the owner/operator has been properly instructed in its use. Furthermore, the contact information on the form (e-mail address) aids NOAA Fisheries in disseminating timely information and/or notifications to users of VMS units. VMS notifications are sent out at least once a month.

Vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program would be authorized to power down their VMS units for a minimum of 30 days at a time outside of the proposed season (May 1 – September 30) when not participating in other fisheries. Owners of vessels wishing to power down their VMS units under this exemption program must obtain a letter of exemption from the VMS transmitting requirements. To obtain this letter of exemption, vessel owners must make a request in writing to the RA and provide information regarding the location of the vessel during the time the exemption is sought, and the exact time period for which the exemption is needed. The information collected as part of the VMS power down exemption request will be used by NOAA Fisheries, on a weekly to monthly basis, to ensure compliance with the provisions of the exemption.

Vessels applying for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed limited access program would be required to complete an application for the limited access permit category for which they are applying (permit category G or H) and submit proof of monkfish landings (in the form of dealer weighout receipts, or state or Federal fishery landings data) to meet the criteria for that permit category. This information will be used by NOAA Fisheries to qualify the vessel for the applicable limited access permit category. The initial application for a limited access Category G or H permit is a one-time occurrence. However, once a vessel is determined to qualify for a limited access permit, it is required to renew that permit annually. Further, the permit category itself will be used by NOAA Fisheries to identify these new limited access vessels, on a case-by-case basis, to ensure compliance with the restrictions associated with possessing a Category G or H permit (i.e., the vessel must fish south of 38°20' N. latitude).

The vessels that apply for and receive a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed limited access program will be subject to the same recordkeeping and reporting requirements as other limited access monkfish vessels. Thus, these vessels would be subject to the DAS reporting requirements, vessel trip reporting requirements, gillnet tagging requirements, vessel

operator permit requirements, and vessel replacement/upgrade/permit history restrictions. The information collected as a result of these recordkeeping and reporting requirements is used by NOAA Fisheries on a daily basis to ensure compliance with monkfish fishery regulations (DAS reporting, gillnet tagging, replacement/upgrade/permit history) and compliance with general Federal fishery permit conditions and restrictions (vessel operator permit and vessel trip reports). The information collected is also occasionally used by NOAA Fisheries, a couple times a year, in various analyses related to the management of the monkfish fishery.

Owners of vessels wishing to change the vessel baseline specifications for their limited access monkfish permit to those of the vessel that was initially issued the first Federal limited access fishery permit associated with the current vessel, would have a one-time opportunity to request such a change on or before April 30, 2006, or within one year of the effective date of Amendment 2 (whichever is the latter). This information will be used by NOAA Fisheries, on a daily basis, to enforce the vessel replacement and upgrade restrictions applicable to all limited access monkfish vessels. The purpose of these restrictions is to limit the fishing capacity of the monkfish fleet.

Owners of vessels wishing to target monkfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area and be exempt from the monkfish regulations in the U.S. EEZ must obtain a letter of authorization from the RA. These letters are valid for one permit year. The information obtained as part of issuing the letter of authorization would be used by NOAA Fisheries, on a weekly to monthly basis, to identify those vessels participating in this exemption program to assist in monitoring whether these vessels are complying with the conditions and restrictions of the program.

Completion of the Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form permits NOAA Fisheries to ascertain, in accordance with the regulations found at 50 CFR part 648.4 (M), the percent ownership of limited-access Atlantic Scallop permit applicants.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

After initial permit issuance, permit renewal is made as easy as possible for both the public and the issuing office. The information obtained from the vessel's initial permit application is used to prepare a computer generated pre-printed renewal form. This pre-printed form is sent directly the vessel owner each year along with permit renewal instructions. If there are no changes to the information contained on the pre-printed renewal form, renewal only requires the applicant's signature. This feature minimizes the reporting burden on the public and administrative burden

on the agency. Furthermore, vessel owners may also request a pre-printed renewal form at any time during the year to make necessary changes to their permit or contact information.

In addition to being available upon request, vessel permit information and all initial permit applications and forms are available on the Northeast Regional Office's web site at www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/permits/index.html. Posting this information on the web makes it easier for the general public to obtain necessary forms and instructions, and eases the administrative burden on the agency.

Automated DAS reporting and vessel positioning has been made available through the use of VMS for those limited access monkfish vessels required to have an operational VMS as a condition of their participation in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program. The cost of the VMS unit, which continues to decrease as new technology develops and more vendors become available, is justified due to the need to monitor and enforce the specific area and season proposed for this program.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

NOAA Fisheries is aware of all related fishery management activities, and these requirements do not duplicate any in existence.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The proposed collection of information will not have a significant impact on small entities. Only the minimum data to meet the requirements of the above data needs are requested from all participants. Furthermore, detailed instructions are included with all required applications and forms to help facilitate proper completion. Since all of the respondents are small businesses, separate requirements based on the size of the business have not been developed.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The application for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed limited access program for vessels fishing south of 38°N. latitude is a one-time application. However, vessels would be required to renew this limited access permit on an annual basis or lose the permit permanently. To require vessels to renew their applications less frequently would result in necessary information not being updated in a timely manner. Furthermore, the information collected on the vessel permit form provides valuable fishery information (fishing power, gears used, etc.) that is used annually to describe the monkfish fleet and conduct the necessary analysis of impacts of changes in management measures. Because an application is essential to identify the vessel applying for a limited access permit, the program could not occur if the collection is not conducted.

The other collection of information requirements that the new monkfish limited access vessels would be subject to, as referenced under responses #1 and #2, are approved under the Northeast Permit Family of Forms (OMB Control number 0648-0202). To the extent practicable, frequency of information collection under the Permit Family of Forms has been minimized. To

reduce the frequency any further, nor not at all, would compromise the intent of each collection of information request. For example, less frequent monitoring of vessels fishing under the monkfish DAS program would reduce the effectiveness of the system in helping prevent violations of DAS controls. With respect to the annual request for gillnet tags, it is not useful to conduct this request less frequently since it is expected that gillnet tags will be routinely lost as part of conducting fishing operations.

The Offshore SFMA Fishery Program permit category is necessary to identify the vessels participating in the program to ensure compliance with the conditions and restrictions of the program. Thus, if this collection was not conducted at all, compliance with the provisions of the program could not be monitored. Furthermore, because the annual monkfish DAS allocations for vessels participating in the program are adjusted based on the applicable trip limit/DAS ratio, declaration must occur on an annual basis at a minimum. To require vessels to declare less frequently (i.e., once every two or three years) would only burden the vessels by requiring them to be locked into participating in the program longer than one year at a time.

Vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program will have their locations polled once an hour, 24 hours a day, through their VMS units. To be polled any less frequently would reduce the effectiveness of the system in monitoring vessels' compliance with the conditions and restrictions of the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program. To not poll vessels' positions at all would make this requirement irrelevant.

As stated under response #2, owners of vessels wishing to target monkfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area and be exempt from the monkfish regulations in the U.S. EEZ must obtain a letter of authorization from the RA annually. Because this information is used to identify the vessels participating in the program and monitor their compliance with the conditions and restrictions of the program, it is reasonable to require these vessels to obtain a new letter of authorization annually. If a letter of authorization were not required, NOAA Fisheries would not be able to adequately enforce the provisions of this program.

Owners of vessels will be given a one-time opportunity to request a change to their monkfish vessels baseline specifications under the program being proposed in Amendment 2, and described under responses #1 and #2. As such, the collection cannot be conducted less frequently. Because the Councils stipulated that vessel owners must request a change to their vessel's baseline specifications to take advantage of the proposed measure, not requiring vessel owners to make such a request would go against the Councils' intent, and essentially void the measure.

NOAA Fisheries would have no practicable way to monitor limited access Atlantic scallop permit ownership. The regulations designed to limit ownership in the scallop fishery could not be enforced.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

Some of the requirements may not be consistent with OMB guidelines with regard to reporting frequency. OMB guidelines suggest that respondents not be required to report more often than quarterly. However, requirements to call-in/call-out of the monkfish DAS program require

vessels to report more frequently (for every trip). The call-in/call-out requirement is necessary to accurately monitor a vessel's DAS usage, which is necessary to reduce fishing mortality by restricting total fishing activity.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

The Councils held many NEFMC and MAFMC and Monkfish Oversight Committee meetings during the development of Amendment 2 to the FMP. These meetings took place from January 2002 through October 2004. The Councils approved the measures contained in Amendment 2 at their respective September and October 2004 meetings. The information collections contained in this submission are part of a proposed rule to implement the management measures being proposed in Amendment 2. The proposed rule, published on January 14, 2005, announced the proposed management measures and solicited public comment on these measures and the information collection requirements necessary to implement Amendment 2. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts will be made to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All data will be handled in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form (and without identifying the source of data, i.e., vessel name, owner, etc.). In addition, any information submitted according to the provisions outlined in Amendment 2 would be considered confidential and would not be disclosed except as provided in Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of sensitive nature involved in this collection of information.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

A full summary of the burden estimate involved in this collection of information can be found in Table 1, page 16.

Offshore SFMA Fishery Program – Permit Category and VMS Reporting Requirements

The Offshore SFMA Fishery Program permit category (Category F) is selected on the vessel's annual fishery permit renewal application and would require an estimated 30 minutes to complete. It is estimated that 50 vessels will declare into the program annually. The burden associated with the VMS unit required to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program is 1 hour for installation of the unit, 5 minutes for verification of installation of the unit, and 5 seconds per poll for automated polling of the vessel. Limited access monkfish vessels participating in this program would also be able to request to turn off the VMS unit (power down exemption) for a minimum of 30 days at a response time at approximately 5 minutes per request. It is estimated that half of the vessels estimated to participate in the program will not have VMS units. Therefore, it is estimated that 25 vessels will purchase and install VMS units (over the 3 year period) in order to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program.

Limited Access Program for Vessels fishing South of 38°20 N. Latitude

The initial application for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed limited access program would require approximately 45 minutes to complete. It is estimated that 20 vessels will apply for a limited access monkfish permit under this program. Subsequent annual renewals of the limited access monkfish permit on a pre-printed renewal form would require an estimated 30 minutes to complete. It is estimated that only 5 vessels will qualify for a limited access monkfish permit under the proposed program. Therefore, only 5 vessels will be expected to renew these limited access monkfish permits annually. Vessels that are denied a limited access monkfish permit under this program will have the ability to appeal the denial of the permit at approximately 2 hours per appeal. It is estimated that a total of 10 vessels will appeal the denial of the limited access monkfish permit over the 3 year period.

Vessels that are issued a limited access monkfish permit under this program (estimated to be 5 vessels) would be subject to the same regulatory requirements as other limited access monkfish vessels. Operators of these vessels would be required to obtain a Federal operator permit. Both initial and renewal vessel operator permit applications require an estimated 1-hour to complete the application due to the requirement to submit a color photograph. In addition, these vessels would be subject to the DAS reporting requirements, which requires an estimated 2 minutes per response when using the call-in system; the vessel trip report requirement, which requires an estimated 5 minutes per response; the gillnet designation/tag order requirement, which requires an estimated 10 minutes per response; requests for additional gillnet tags, which requires an estimated 2 minutes per response; and the requirement to notify NOAA Fisheries of lost tags and request replacement tags, which requires an estimated 2 minutes per response. In addition, owners of these new limited access monkfish vessels may apply for Good Samaritan DAS credits at a burden of 30 minutes for application if the vessel assisted in USCG search and rescue operations or assisted in towing a disabled vessel. It is estimated that no more than one of the 5 vessels possessing this limited access permit will apply for Good Samaritan DAS credit annually.

Finally, these new limited access monkfish vessels would be subject to the same replacement, upgrade, and permit history restrictions as other limited access monkfish vessels. Completion of a replacement or upgrade application requires an estimated 3 hours per response. It is estimated that no more than two of the 5 vessels possessing these limited access permits will request a

vessel replacement or upgrade annually. Completion of a confirmation of permit history (CPH) application requires an estimated 30 minutes per response. It is estimated that no more than one of the 5 vessels possessing these limited access permits will request a CPH annually.

Requests to Change Limited Access Monkfish Vessel Baselines

Under the proposed program, owners of limited access monkfish vessels will have an one-time opportunity to change their monkfish vessel baseline specifications to be those associated with the vessel holding the first Federal limited access permit. The estimated response time for this request is 30 minutes. Since vessel owners will be given only one year to request a change, it is estimated that no more than 20 vessels will request this change to their vessel baseline specifications during the 3-year period.

NAFO Regulatory Area Exemption

Vessels intending fish for monkfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area under the proposed exemption program would be required to obtain a letter of authorization from the RA. The estimated response time for this letter of authorization is 5 minutes per request. It is estimated that no more than 10 vessels will request this letter of authorization annually.

Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form

The Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form is filled out in conjunction with the initial permit application or the renewal permit application, as applicable for the person involved. The initial vessel permit application requires an estimated 45 minutes to complete, while the preprinted vessel permit renewal forms require an estimated 30 minutes per response.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

A full summary of cost to the public associated with this collection of information can be found in Table 1, following this support statement.

The RA must approve any VMS system used by federally permitted fishing vessels. Currently there are only two vendors that offer VMS units approved for use in the Northeast Region. These vendors are Boatracs, Inc. and Skymate, Inc. The average system offered by Boatracs or Skymate costs approximately \$3,100. Only vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program would be required to purchase and install a VMS unit. Many of the larger limited access monkfish vessels also possess limited access multispecies permits. Since many of the new programs implemented for the Northeast multispecies fishery require operational VMS units, many of the vessels expected to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program already have a VMS unit installed. As a result, it is estimated that half of the 50 vessels expected to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program will already have VMS units installed. Furthermore, the cost of purchasing and installing a VMS unit is only incurred during the first year. Thus, the total cost to the public of purchasing and installing VMS units in order to participate in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program has been divided by 3 to produce an estimated annual cost of \$25,833.33. DAS monitoring for these vessels would be automated

through the VMS unit, eliminating the need for the vessel to use the call-in system. The average monthly cost of a VMS unit from Boatracs or Skymate is approximately \$150, for a total combined estimated annual cost of \$45,000 for new VMS users.

As stated previously, operators of vessels that obtain a limited access monkfish permit through the proposed program for vessels fishing south of 38°N. latitude would be required to obtain a Federal vessel operator permit. Although there is no application cost for this applicants must include a color photograph with their application at a cost of approximately \$10. Because the vessel operator permit is valid for 3 years, the total cost estimate provided in Table 1, page 16, has been divided by 3 to provide an annual estimate of \$16.67 for the 5 vessels expected to qualify for limited access monkfish permits under the proposed program.

All limited access monkfish vessels that declare into the gillnet fishery must obtain gillnet tags. Gillnet tags are purchased from, and supplied to the industry by, an independent contractor. The cost associated with the purchase of gillnet tags is \$1.15 per tag. Since monkfish vessels are allowed to fish up to 160 nets, they are authorized to purchase 160 gillnet tags every three years. Therefore, the total cost of gillnet tags is \$192 ($\1.20×160) every three years. Thus the total annualized cost per entity is \$64. This price includes shipping and handling charges, but there is an additional shipping and handling charge of \$5.00 for orders of less than 20 tags.

The Atlantic Scallop Ownership Form is filled out in conjunction with the initial permit application or the renewal permit application package, as applicable for the person involved. The associated costs to respondents remain the same as those previously listed in the Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government.

A full summary of the cost to the Federal Government associated with this collection of information can be found in Table 1, following this support statement.

The estimated annualized cost to the Federal Government assumes that the average cost to issue a Federal fishery permit or vessel operator permit is \$33 per permit, including labor, printing, distribution, computer time, and handling. The 3-year average annual cost of issuing and renewing new limited access monkfish permits under the proposed program for vessels fishing south of 38°N. latitude is \$330. Since the vessel operator permit is valid for 3 years, the total estimated cost to the government of \$165 (5 permits x \$33) is divided by 3 to produce an annual estimated cost of \$55. The act of declaring into the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program requires the issuance of a new limited access monkfish permit category (Category F). Thus, the annual estimated cost to the government of a limited access monkfish vessel declaring into the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program is \$1,650 (50 vessels x \$33).

The estimated cost to the Federal Government associated with processing monkfish permit appeals is \$25 per hour. It is anticipated that a total of 10 vessels will appeal the denial of their application for a limited access monkfish permit for vessels fishing south of 38°N. latitude. Therefore, the total cost estimate of \$500 has been divided by 3 in Table 1, page 16, to provide an annualized cost estimate of \$166.67.

The annual estimated cost to the Federal Government is estimated to be \$25 per burden hour for

VMS requirements. The total estimated cost to the government associated with proof of VMS installation for vessels participating in the Offshore SFMA Fishery Program is \$51.88. However, vessel owners need only to provide proof of installation when first installing a VMS unit. Therefore, the annualized cost estimate of \$17.29 provided in Table 1, page 16, is produced by dividing the total cost estimate by 3. There is no expected additional cost to the government associated with VMS operation since the estimated number of new VMS users as a result of the proposed Offshore SFMA Fishery Program is minimal. The total cost to the government associated with request for a VMS power down exemption is \$51.88.

The annual estimated cost to the Federal Government is estimated to be \$25 per burden hour for all other collection of information requirements contained in Amendment 2. The estimated annual cost to the government of processing vessel replacements, upgrades, or confirmations of permit history associated with the new limited access monkfish permits is \$162.50. The estimated annual cost to the government associated with general reporting requirements (DAS reporting, vessel trip reports, Good Samaritan DAS credit) for the new limited access monkfish permits is \$592.50. The estimated annual cost to the government associated with gillnet designations and issuance of gillnet tags for the new limited access monkfish permits is \$29.50. The estimated cost to the government associated with processing requests to change a vessel's monkfish baseline under the proposed program is \$83.33. Finally, the estimated cost to the government associated with requests for a letter of authorization to participate in the NAFO Regulatory Area exemption program is \$20.75.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP was developed by the Councils in part to respond to the Joint Stipulation and Order for the AOC v. Daley lawsuit, which requires that NOAA Fisheries prepares an EIS that adequately analyzes the potential adverse effects of fishing on EFH and if there are any practicable steps to minimize any such adverse effects of fishing on EFH. Amendment 2 was also developed in response to several concerns raised during the public scoping process including the disapproval of the running clock provision in the original FMP, and the exclusion of vessels fishing off of southern Virginia and North Carolina due to an error in the public hearing document for the original FMP.

The burden estimates provided in Table 1, following this support statement, are based on the estimated number of individuals most likely to be affected. The actual number of entities affected by each collection of information requirement may differ slightly from these estimates.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical, or general information publications such as the Fisheries of the United States, which follows prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table format, and the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report prepared by the NEFMC for the monkfish fishery. Data obtained from this collection would be available to the public upon request in summary form only. Furthermore, data are available to NOAA Fisheries employees in detailed form on a need-to-know basis only.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

All forms will display the OMB control number and expiration date along with information relevant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

All instances of this submission comply with 5 CFR 1320.9.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are employed in the information collection procedures.

Table 1. New Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements In Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP

Requirement	# of	Items Per	Total #	Response	Total	Cost to:	
	Entities	Entity	of Items	Time	Burden	Public	Govt. ⁽¹⁾
Offshore Fishery Program ⁽²⁾							
Selection of Permit Category	50	1	50	0.500	25.00		1,650.00
VMS Requirements for Program Participants ⁽³⁾							
VMS Installation (time) ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	1.000	8.33		n/a
VMS Installation (Unit cost =\$3,100) ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	n/a	n/a		n/a
						25,833.33	
VMS Proof of Installation ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	0.083	0.69		17.29
Automated VMS Polling of Vessel Position (365*24)	25	8,760	219,000	0.001	219.00		n/a
VMS Operation (\$150 per month per vessel)	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,000.00	n/a
VMS Power Down Exemption	25	1	25	0.083	2.08		51.88
Total ⁽⁵⁾	50		219,150		255.10	70,833.33	1,719.17
NC/VA Moratorium Permit							
Year 1 Initial application for limited access permit ⁽²⁾	20	1	20	0.750	15.00		660.00
Year 2 Permit Renewal ⁽²⁾	5	1	5	0.500	2.50		165.00
Year 3 Permit Renewal ⁽²⁾	5	1	5	0.500	2.50		165.00
3 Year Average Burden							330.00
Monkfish Appeals ⁽⁶⁾	10	1	10	2.000	6.67		166.67
Operator Permit Initial (time plus \$10 for photograph) ^{(2) (7)}	5	1	5	1.000	1.67	16.67	55.00
Total ⁽⁵⁾	20		45		28.33	16.67	551.67
RUPH Application							
Replacement/Upgrade	2	1	2	3.000	6.00		150.00
History Retention	1	1	1	0.500	0.50		12.50
Total ⁽⁵⁾	3		3		6.50		162.50
Reporting Requirements							
Good Samaritan DAS Credits	1	1	1	0.500	0.50		12.50
Total ⁽⁵⁾	11		1		0.50		12.50

Gillnet Tagging Requirements							
Gillnet Designations	5	1	5	0.167	0.84		n/a
Attachment of nets tags (\$1.20 x total number of tags) annualized from 3-year renewal period	5	64	320	n/a	n/a	368.00	
Additional tags ⁽⁸⁾	5	1	5	0.033	0.17		4.13
Notification of lost tags/replacement requests	5	1	5	0.033	0.17		4.13
Total ⁽⁵⁾	5		335		0.33	368.00	29.13
Limited Access Monkfish Vessel Baseline Change							
Request to change monkfish baseline to be that of first Federal limited access permit ⁽⁹⁾	20	1	20	0.5	3.33		83.33
NAFO Regulatory Area Request							
Request for Letter of Authorization	10	1	10	0.083	0.83		20.75
Totals, Monkfish Amendment 2 ⁽⁵⁾	99		219,564		294.93	71,218.00	2,579.04
Current OMB Inventory Under 0648-0202	42,133		6,210,270		27,097	1,456,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	
Total New Plus Existing (OMB 83I form)	42,232		6,429,834		27,391.93	1,527,218.00	

(1) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$25 per entity unless otherwise noted.

(2) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$33 per entity.

(3) The number of entities is only reflective of those that are expected to participate in the Offshore Fishery Program that currently do not have a VMS unit.

(4) The total burden is divided by 3 since 25 vessels are expected to purchase VMS units over the 3-year period.

(5) Counts affected entities only once. Thus, number of entities is not additive across rows.

(6) The total burden is divided by 3 since a total of 10 appeals are anticipated during the 3-year period.

(7) The total burden is divided by 3 since the operator permit is renewed once every 3 years.

(8) The cost of additional tags is included in the total allowed in the initial request.

(9) The total burden is divided by 3 since vessel owners will only have one year to request a baseline change.

(10) This number is the sum of the total annualized start-up costs (\$152,000) and the total annual costs (\$1,349,000) currently approved.

Table 1. New Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements In Amendment 2 to the Monkfish FMP

Requirement	# of	Items Per	Total #	Response	Total	Cost to:	
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Offshore Fishery Program ⁽²⁾							
Selection of Permit Category	50	1	50	0.500	25.00		1,650.00
VMS Requirements for Program Participants ⁽³⁾							
VMS Installation (time) ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	1.000	8.33		n/a
VMS Installation (Unit cost =\$3,100) ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	n/a	n/a		n/a
						25,833.33	
VMS Proof of Installation ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	0.083	0.69		17.29
Automated VMS Polling of Vessel Position (365*24)	25	8,760	219,000	0.001	219.00		n/a
VMS Operation (\$150 per month per vessel)	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,000.00	n/a
VMS Power Down Exemption	25	1	25	0.083	2.08		51.88
Total ⁽⁵⁾	50		219,150		255.10	70,833.33	1,719.17
NC/VA Moratorium Permit							
Year 1 Initial application for limited access permit ⁽²⁾	20	1	20	0.750	15.00		660.00
Year 2 Permit Renewal ⁽²⁾	5	1	5	0.500	2.50		165.00
Year 3 Permit Renewal ⁽²⁾	5	1	5	0.500	2.50		165.00
3 Year Average Burden							330.00
Monkfish Appeals ⁽⁶⁾	10	1	10	2.000	6.67		166.67
Operator Permit Initial (time plus \$10 for photograph) ^{(2) (7)}	5	1	5	1.000	1.67	16.67	55.00
Total ⁽⁵⁾	20		45		28.33	16.67	551.67
RUPH Application							
Replacement/Upgrade	2	1	2	3.000	6.00		150.00
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Gillnet Tagging Requirements							
Gillnet Designations	5	1	5	0.167	0.84		n/a
Attachment of nets tags (\$1.20 x total number of tags) annualized from 3-year renewal period	5	64	320	n/a	n/a	368.00	
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(6) The total burden is divided by 3 since a total of 10 appeals are anticipated during the 3-year period.

(7) The total burden is divided by 3 since the operator permit is renewed once every 3 years.

(8) The cost of additional tags is included in the total allowed in the initial request.

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VMS Installation (Unit cost =\$3,100) ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	n/a	n/a		n/a
						25,833.33	
VMS Proof of Installation ⁽⁴⁾	25	1	25	0.083	0.69		17.29
Automated VMS Polling of Vessel Position (365*24)	25	8,760	219,000	0.001	219.00		n/a
VMS Operation (\$150 per month per vessel)	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,000.00	n/a
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Total ⁽⁵⁾	50		219,150		255.10	70,833.33	1,719.17
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Notification of lost tags/replacement requests	5	1	5	0.033	0.17		4.13
Total ⁽⁵⁾	5		335		0.33	368.00	29.13
Limited Access Monkfish Vessel Baseline Change							
Request to change monkfish baseline to be that of first Federal limited access permit ⁽⁹⁾	20	1	20	0.5	3.33		83.33
NAFO Regulatory Area Request							
Request for Letter of Authorization	10	1	10	0.083	0.83		20.75
Totals, Monkfish Amendment 2 ⁽⁵⁾	99		219,564		294.93	71,218.00	2,579.04
Current OMB Inventory Under 0648-0202	42,133		6,210,270		27,097	1,456,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	
Total New Plus Existing (OMB 83I form)	42,232		6,429,834		27,391.93	1,527,218.00	

(1) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$25 per entity unless otherwise noted.

(2) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$33 per entity.

(3) The number of entities is only reflective of those that are expected to participate in the Offshore Fishery Program that currently do not have a VMS unit.

(4) The total burden is divided by 3 since 25 vessels are expected to purchase VMS units over the 3-year period.

(5) Counts affected entities only once. Thus, number of entities is not additive across rows.

(6) The total burden is divided by 3 since a total of 10 appeals are anticipated during the 3-year period.

(7) The total burden is divided by 3 since the operator permit is renewed once every 3 years.

(8) The cost of additional tags is included in the total allowed in the initial request.

(9) The total burden is divided by 3 since vessel owners will only have one year to request a baseline change.

(10) This number is the sum of the total annualized start-up costs (\$152,000) and the total annual costs (\$1,349,000) currently approved.

INITIAL VESSEL APPLICATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Northeast
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
PERMIT OFFICE
ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298
Tel: (978) 281-9370



Region Federal Fisheries Permit Application

Section 1 - Vessel/Owner Information

Is this application for a vessel permit transfer? Yes No * If yes, also complete a RUPH application.

If vessel was previously issued a Federal vessel permit, enter

Enter information in the spaces provided. All items must be completed.

Vessel Name: Owner Name:

Street Address: City:

State: Zip: Owner Telephone: ()

CG Documentation or State Registration Number:

Home Port: Principal Port:

Section 2 - Vessel Information

Enter information in the spaces provided. All items must be completed.

Vessel Length: _____
Overall length in feet.

Dredge Size: _____
Dredge size in feet.

Crew Size: _____
Average number or crew, including the captain.

Number of Dredges: _____
Total number of dredges aboard the vessel.

Gross Tonnage: _____
As recorded on US Coast Guard Documentation.

Pump Horsepower: _____
This item applies to surf clam/ocean quahog vessels only.

Year Built: _____
The year the vessel was built.

Construction: 1 = wood 2 = fiberglass 3 = Steel 4 = Other
(please circle the number that applies to your vessel)

Main Engine HP: _____
The vessel engine horsepower.

Propulsion: 1 = gasoline 2 = diesel 3 = Other
(please circle the number that applies to your vessel)

Fish Hold Capacity: _____
Measured to the nearest 100 pounds.

Number of Passengers for Charter or Party: _____
Number of passengers the vessel is licensed to carry.
(See Section 5D for additional documents required)

Remember to include required documents.
(See instructions, Section 5: Additional Documents Required)

* RUPH is a Vessel Replacement, Upgrade, and Confirmation of Permit History application.

New Vessel Permit Number _____ (For Office use only)

Continued on reverse

Section 3 - Fishery Information

Gear Codes

120 - Purse Seine	210 - Beach Seine	220 - Boat Seines	310 - Bottom Trawl	320 - Mid-water Trawl
330 - Other Trawl	410 - Dredge	800 - Pots & Traps	911 - Hand Lines	912 - Rod & Reel
1010 - Harpoons	1200 - Other Gears	1400 - Diving Gear	700 - Gill/Entangling Nets	920 - Longlines or Setlines

Please circle the number or letter of the fishery category for which you are applying. Clearly print the numeric gear code(s) from the list above. Refer to the instructions for a description of permit categories and their allowable gear code(s).

Please do not select a category or a category and gear code combination for which your vessel is not eligible. Inaccurate or incomplete selections will delay the processing of your permit.

Fisheries	Open Access	Limited Access Categories	Gear Code(s)
	Categories	Qualified Vessels Only	
Sea Scallop	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Northeast Multispecies	H I J K	A B C D E F G	
Monkfish	E	A B C D F G H	
Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog	1 6		410 - Dredge only
Maine Mahogany Quahog		7	410 - Dredge only
Summer Flounder	2	1	
Scup	2	1	
Black Sea Bass	2	1	
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2 3 4	1 5	
Spiny Dogfish	1		
Atlantic Bluefish	1 2		
Atlantic Herring	1 2		
Tilefish	D	A B C	
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	A	B C	
Skate	1		
American Lobster - Non Trap		1 2	
American Lobster - Trap		A1 A2 A23 A3 A4 A5 A6 AOC	800 - Pots and Traps only

Section 4 - Owner's Signature

I, the undersigned, am the owner or legally authorized agent of the owner of the vessel named in Section 1. I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information that I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that potential respondents for a fishing vessel permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for Federal fisheries permits. One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to carry out its conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for users of the resources. All the fisheries included on this application require a permit to fish for or retain specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The purpose and use of these permits are to (1) register industry participants and fishing vessels, (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels, (3) exercise influence over compliance, (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (5) register participants to be considered to limited entry, and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al, require the determination of this information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is no confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOAA/NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298



VESSEL RENEWAL APPLICATION
2000 NE FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT

08-DEC-04

Tel: (978) 281-9370

TH

YOU MUST SIGN AND MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE BACK OF APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

Section 1 - OWNER INFORMATION		Section 2 - VESSEL INFORMATION	
Vessel Name: Owner Name: Address:		Northeast Federal Vessel Permit Number: CG Documentation Number or State Registration Number: Home Port: Principal Port: Telephone:	
Section 3 - 2000 FISHERY INFORMATION			
Fishery:	Category	Gear(s):	Cancel:

YOU MUST SIGN AND MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE BACK OF APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED

Section 4 - CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Please verify that all owner information on the front of this application is complete and correct. Any **NEW** or **UPDATED** address, owner, or vessel information must be written below. This information will be assumed to replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. To cancel a fishery permit, clearly mark the cancel box on the front of this form. Fishery information listed below will be **ADDED** to your record provided your vessel qualifies for the fisheries, categories and gear codes selected.

Vessel Name:

Owner Name:

Owner Address:

Owner Address:

Owner Telephone: ()

Home Port:

Principal Port:

Gear Codes

120 - Purse Seine **210** - Beach Seine **220** - Boat Seines **310** - Bottom Trawl **320** - Mid-water Trawl
330 - Other Trawl **410** - Dredge **700** - Gill/Entangling Nets **800** - Pots & Traps **911** - Hand Lines
912 - Rod & Reel **913** - Tub Trawl **1010** - Harpoons **1200** - Other Gears **1400** - Diving Gear **920** - Longlines or

If you select a fishery category and gear code combination(s) for which your vessel is not eligible, the processing of your permits may be delayed. See instructions for further details or call Northeast Permit Operations at (978) 281-9370.

Please circle the number or letter of the fishery category for which you are applying. Clearly print the numeric gear code(s) from the list above. Refer to the instructions for a list of permit categories and their description of allowable gear code(s).

Fisheries	Open Access	Limited Access Categories	Gear Code(s)
	Categories	Qualified Vessels Only	
Sea Scallop	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Northeast Multispecies	HB I J K	A C D E F HA	
Monkfish	E	A B C D F G H	
Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog	1 6		410 - Dredge only
Maine Mahogany Quahog		7	410 - Dredge only
Summer Flounder	2	1	
Scup	2	1	
Black Sea Bass	2	1	
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2 3 4	1 5	
Spiny Dogfish	1		
Atlantic Bluefish	1 2		
Atlantic Herring	1 2		
Tilefish	D	A B C	
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	A	B C	
Skate	1		
American Lobster Non Trap		1 2	
American Lobster - Trap		A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 AOC	800 - Pots and Traps only

Section 5 - APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SIGNATURE

☐ Issue with requested changes above and on front
☐ No Longer Own vessel
☐ Vessel Sold
☐ Vessel destroyed

I, the undersigned, am the owner or legally authorized agent of the owner of the vessel named in Section 1 above. I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information that I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

OMB# 0648-0202 Expires June 30, 2007

Remember to include a copy of your valid State Registration or U.S. Coast Guard Documentation



National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



**Northeast Federal Fisheries
2005 Vessel Permit Renewal Instructions**

These instructions contain general information about the renewal process (page 1) and specific information about sections 1-5 of your renewal application (pages 2-3). A description of all Northeast Federal Fisheries Permits can be found on pages 4-11.

Completing the application: Please use this checklist to help ensure that your application is correct and complete. **Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to you.** To complete your application you must:

- Update or correct the information printed on your application, if necessary
- Enclose a copy of a **valid** State Registration or Coast Guard document for your vessel (see page 3, additional documents required for further details)
- Be in compliance with all reporting requirements found at 50 CFR §648.7 (contact the Fisheries Statistics Office Data Center at 978-281-9246 for further information)
- Submit corporate information **if** your vessel is owned by a corporation or LLC, or submit partnership information **if** your vessel is owned through a partnership (see page 3, additional documents required for further details)
- If you are renewing a party/charter permit, submit copy of valid state charter/party license, USCG Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement, or Captain's license (see page 3, additional documents required for further details)
- Sign and date the application

Send or return the completed application to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Permits Operations
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Application processing service is not currently available to walk-in customers. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with one of our representatives to discuss your permit application, please call us at 978-281-9370.

When to submit: Your renewal application should be returned to us at least 30 days prior to the date the permit is required in order to assure processing of your application.

Who to contact with questions: The answers to many questions can be found in these instructions. Please contact us at 978-281-9370 if you have further questions. Northeast Fisheries Regulations, permit data, permit applications, and important announcements are available on our website at: www.nero.nmfs.gov.

Changes in your information: If any of the information you submit with this renewal application changes during any permit year, including but not limited to your address or telephone number, you are required to notify the National Marine Fisheries Service within 15 days of that change.

Description of the renewal application

Section 1: Owner Information

Please verify that all owner information is complete and correct. Any new or updated address, owner, or vessel information must be written on the back of the form (Section 4). The new information will replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. If your vessel is U.S. Coast Guard documented, a change of vessel name must also be reflected on the U.S. Coast Guard document. A change of ownership of a vessel requires an Initial Vessel Permit Application and cannot be processed using the Vessel Renewal Application.

Section 2: Vessel Information

For NOAA Fisheries purposes, Home Port and Principal Port are defined as follows:

Home Port: City and State where your vessel is moored.
Principal Port: City and State where the majority of your landings occur.

Please make sure the **phone number** and **area code** are complete and correct. Cross out any incorrect information on the front of the form and include the correct information in the space provided on the back of the form in Section 4.

Section 3: Year 2004 Fishery Information

Year 2004 Fishery Information gives information about the Federal permits your vessel held in the permit year 2004. Please review the fisheries listed in this section. The fisheries listed in this section will be issued to your vessel unless you indicate, on the form, that they be cancelled. See section 4 below on instructions for adding a fishery that your vessel is qualified for but is not listed in Section 3. NOAA Fisheries reserves the right to make a final determination on vessel's eligibility for any permit.

Canceling a fishery: To cancel a fishery, put an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" on the front of the form (Section 3). Please note that, except in certain specific cases, once you relinquish (cancel) a limited access permit, you will lose your right to renew that limited access permit in subsequent years. If you have questions, contact the Northeast Permits Operations Team.

Section 4: Corrections and Additions

Renewal Corrections and Additions are to be made in Section 4 on the back of the form. Space is provided for any changes you want to make to your Federal fisheries permit. Please cross out information you want to remove, or place an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" for the permit you want to cancel on the front of the form (Section 3). You may add or change a fishery category or gear code by entering new information in this section in the spaces provided. Your vessel must be qualified to apply for limited access fisheries. Contact Northeast Permits Operations for further information.

Category: For each fishery you want to add, circle the category numbers or letters in this column. Note that limited access permits require eligibility criteria. Selecting categories that your vessel is not eligible for may delay the processing of your application.

Gear Code: For each fishery, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table on page 4. Write the gear code numbers in the column marked "Gear Code". You may select more than one gear code for a category. **If no gear code is selected, the application can not be processed and will be returned to you.**

Section 5: Application Instructions & Signature

Please sign and date the form. Unsigned, or otherwise incomplete applications, will be returned. Your signature is an affirmation that, under penalty of perjury, all the information provided in order to obtain this permit is true and correct. Submitting false information in connection with an application could subject you to criminal/civil penalties or permit sanctions [18 U.S.C. 1001]

Additional Documents Required

A. Certificate Of Incorporation, Partnership Agreement Or Annual Reports:

If the vessel is owned by a corporation, LLC, or a partnership, the following information must be submitted with the application form:

- A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation must be submitted once. Each year, documents showing current corporate status and all officers and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares in the corporation must be submitted.
- The list of corporate officers and shareholders must include their addresses (examples of acceptable documentation include minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and stockholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and stockholders).
- Partnerships must submit a copy of the partnership agreement once. Each year, the names and addresses of all partners must be submitted.

B. USCG Documentation/State Registration:

A copy of the vessel's valid US Coast Guard Documentation, or, if undocumented, a copy of the vessel's current State Registration. A vessel's permit application will not be accepted if the vessel registration has expired before NOAA Fisheries receives it.

C. Charter/Party Permit:

If you are applying for a charter/party permit, you must submit a copy of one of the following documents:

- Valid state license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Valid US Coast Guard Documentation that shows the vessel is presently documented for the "Coastwise" trade.
- Valid US Coast Guard license to operate or navigate passenger-carrying vessels.

D. Atlantic Herring Fishery:

If you caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous fishing year, or if you intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current fishing year, submit a signed statement verifying that you did so, or that you intend to do so, and attach a copy of a vendor installation receipt from a NMFS-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) vendor, as described in Section 648.9 of the regulations for the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States.

Description Northeast Fisheries Permits

Gear Codes and Explanations

Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code
Purse Seines	120	Other Trawls	330	Rod and Reel	912
Beach Seines	210	Dredge	410	Tub Trawl	913
Boat Seines	220	Gill/Entangling Nets	700	Longlines or Setlines	920
Bottom Trawls	310	Pots and Traps	800	Harpoons	1010
Mid-water Trawls	320	Hand Lines	911	Other Gears	1200
				Diving Gear	1400

Description of Northeast Fisheries Permits – Categories Are Shaded

.....

❖ Atlantic Sea Scallop

Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category.

1	General: Possess or land no more than 400 lbs of shucked scallops, or 50 US bushels of in-shell scallops per trip (one trip per calendar day). This category includes all gear types.
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Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of the permit within a permit year to make a change to the permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

2	Full-Time* This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
3	Part-Time* This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
4	Occasional This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
5	Full-Time Small Dredge* Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
6	Part-Time Small Dredge* Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
7	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
8	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.

*Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel.

❖ Northeast Multispecies

Regulated species: Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab) and white hake

Other Northeast multispecies: Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, white hake, ocean pout, and Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip of at least 36 inches)

.....

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A	Individual DAS: This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Small Vessel Exemption: (less than or equal to 30 feet) This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category is limited to handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), tub trawl (gear code 913) and longlines (gear code 920) gear only.
E	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category includes all gear types except a dredge.
F	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. Category A DAS for vessels fishing under this permit category will be increased by 36%. These vessels must fish with either gillnets or trawl nets having a minimum of 8.5-inch square or diamond mesh when fishing in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, and 7.5-inch diamond or 8.0-inch square mesh when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area. This category is limited to gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
HA	Handgear A: (Vessels in this category may not change category) The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb cod, one Atlantic halibut, and daily possession limit restrictions allowed for the remaining regulated species. This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.

***See page 4 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

Northeast Multispecies - Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

HB	Handgear B: The vessel may possess and land up to 75 lb cod, one Atlantic halibut, and daily possession limit restrictions allowed for the remaining regulated species. This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.
I	Charter/Party: The vessel may possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5D for additional information.) This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912) and handline (gear code 911) gear only.
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit to qualify for this category. This category includes all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: The vessel may fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip, at least 36 inches) when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category includes all gear types.

❖ Monkfish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them, or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
B	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lb tail-weight or 166,000 lb whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category includes all gear types.
D	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category C permit. This category includes all gear types.
F	Offshore Fishery Program: Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in any of the other monkfish limited access permit categories in the previous fishing year. Vessels electing this category must have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) installed on the vessel. This category has a specified season of October 1 – April 30 each year. This category includes all gear types.
Vessels Fishing South of 38° 20 N. Latitude	

G	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lb tail-weight or 166,000 lb whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period* and fish south of 38°20 N. lat. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
H	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit and do not qualify for an Category A, C, or G permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.

Open Access Permit: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a monkfish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land monkfish. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

E	Incidental Catch: Allows a vessel to possess and land a limited amount of monkfish, depending on fishing year, area fished, and gear fished. For specific limit amounts, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Surfclam/Ocean Quahog

Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fishery Regulations.

1	Surfclam: The vessel may fish for surfclams.* This category is limited to dredge (410) gear only.
6	Ocean Quahog: The vessel may fish for ocean quahogs.* This category is limited to dredge (410) gear only.

* To possess and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required. For more information call 978-281-9315.

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

7	Maine Mahogany Quahog: The vessel may harvest and land ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes N. This category is limited to dredge (410) gear only.
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❖ Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess summer flounder in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Scup (Porgy)

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Scup Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
---	---

Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess scup in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Black Sea Bass

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Black Sea Bass Moratorium: May fish commercially in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N latitude during open season, subject to trip limits. This category includes all gear types.
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Black Sea Bass continued. Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess black sea bass in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
---	---

❖ Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Loligo/Butterfish Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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5	Illex Squid Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories.

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Loligo or Illex squid, or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Loligo squid or butterfish and 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip. This category includes all gear types.
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4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Spiny Dogfish

Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Atlantic Bluefish

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Scup Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess scup in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Black Sea Bass

Limited Access Permit: This permit may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held it or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Black Sea Bass Moratorium: May fish commercially in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N latitude during open season, subject to trip limits. This category includes all gear types.
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Black Sea Bass continued. Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess black sea bass in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Loligo/Butterfish Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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5	Illex Squid Moratorium This category includes all gear types.
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Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories.

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Loligo or Illex squid, or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Loligo squid or butterfish and 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip. This category includes all gear types.
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4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Spiny Dogfish

Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Atlantic Bluefish

Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial: May possess or harvest Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ in excess of the daily possession limit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.

❖ Atlantic Herring

Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	For vessels that caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the last calendar year or intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during this calendar year. An operational Vessel Monitoring System is required to be onboard the vessel for this category. (See Section 5E for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
2	For vessels that did not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous calendar year or will not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current calendar year. This category includes all gear types.

❖ Tilefish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

A	Full-time tier 1: This category is allocated 66 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category is limited to longlines or setlines (gear code 920) gear only.
B	Full-time tier 2: This category is allocated 15 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category is limited to longlines or setlines (gear code 920) gear only.
C	Part-time: This category is allocated 19 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category is limited to longlines or setlines (gear code 920) gear only.

Open Access Permit: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a tilefish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

D	Incidental Catch: A vessel may possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ up to 133 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Skate

Northeast Skate Complex (Skate) - The following species of skates comprise the NE skate complex and are included under the Federal skate permit: winter skate; barndoor skate; thorny skate; smooth skate; little skate; clearnose skate; and rosette skate.

Open Access Permit: Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations for further restrictions.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land skate caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
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❖ Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

B	Vessels in this category are subject to a baseline trip limit of 75,000 lb. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
C	Upon demonstrating proof of a trip with landings higher than 75,000 lb, the vessel qualifies for a trip limit equal to the larger trip, rounded to the nearest 5,000 lb. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Open Access Permit: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a red crab limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land red crab in or from the EEZ. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
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***See page 4 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

❖ American Lobster

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types except pots and traps.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations require NMFS to issue a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

American Lobster Historical Participation

Limited Access Permits: For information on the American Lobster Historical Participation program contact the NMFS Northeast Region at (978) 281-9144.

A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **See eligibility requirements below.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations make mandatory the issuance of a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

**** You may only select Areas 3, 4 or 5 on your 2005 permit under the following circumstances:**

1. You have received a written Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.
2. You submitted a Lobster Trap Area Eligibility Application prior to July 31, 2003, and were subsequently issued an interim permit (LOI) to continue fishing in Area 3, 4 or 5 until the end of the 2003 fishing year or until notified by NMFS of your eligibility. If you fall into this category and have not yet been notified of your eligibility, your interim permit can be carried over into the 2005 fishing year.

Note: If you did not submit a Lobster Trap Eligibility Application for Areas 3, 4 or 5 prior to July 31, 2003, but submitted one between August 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, you may not fish in Areas 3, 4 or 5 until you have received a Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.

Additional Documents Required (Section 5 B)

Scallop Vessels owned – All owners of the vessel that is the subject of this application should list all vessels in which they have ownership interests that have limited access permits in the Atlantic Sea Scallop fishery. Having an ownership interest includes, but is not limited to, persons who are shareholders in a vessel with a limited access Atlantic Sea Scallop permit owned by a Corporation, who are partners (general or limited) of a vessel with a limited access Atlantic Sea Scallop permit, or who, in any way, have any other type of ownership interest in a vessel with a limited access Atlantic Sea Scallop permit.

Vessel Name: _____ **Vessel Permit Number:** _____

DO NOT list business or Corporate names.	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest.	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest.	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest.
Owners of the vessel listed above	Vessel Name & Permit Number	Vessel Name & Permit Number	Vessel Name & Permit Number

DO NOT list business or Corporate names. Owners of the vessel listed above	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest. Vessel Name & Permit Number	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest. Vessel Name & Permit Number	Other Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop vessels that this owner has ownership interest. Vessel Name & Permit Number

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing & reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that potential respondents for a fishing vessel permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for Federal fisheries permits. One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to carry out its conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for users of the resources. All the fisheries included on this application require a permit to fish for or retain these species in or from the EEZ, Section 303 (b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The purpose and use of these permits are to: (1) register industry participants and fishing vessels, (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels, (3) exercise influence over compliance, (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (5) register participants to be considered for limited entry, and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al. require the determination of this information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is not confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.